

F-3-11  
Harry Routzahn House  
Gas House Pike, Frederick  
Private

1820's

The Harry Routzahn House is a rectangular shaped, two and a half story brick residence laid in common bond brick. The principal facade is five bays wide. A wooden panelled door with recessed doorway occupies the third bay. The door is topped by a four light transom. The remaining bays are filled by four over four windows framed with original wooden louvered shutters. The windows on the second floor are also four over four with wooden louvered shutters.

The entire structure is laid in common bond brick with a row of headers every ten rows of brick. The structure is covered by asphalt shingles, a replacement of the original roof materials. Beneath the roof is a stepped brick cornice on the facade, and a wooden boxed cornice on the north and south elevations.

The probable builder of the house, Captain John Brengle, was a distinguished resident of the area having commanded a company from the Frederick area in the War of 1812.<sup>1</sup> A number of prominent individuals owned the home in the ensuing years. The house is significant due to its architectural design and detail, and its historic place in the countryside surrounding the Frederick area.

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T. J. C. Williams, History of Frederick County Maryland, (1910; rpt. Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1967), I, p. 167.

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Harry Routzahn House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Faces east on the west side of Gas House Pike

CITY, TOWN

Frederick

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6 M 67/ P 13

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Frederick

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES RESTRICTED☐ YES UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Mr. Harry Routzahn

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Gas House Pike

CITY, TOWN

Frederick

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland

21701

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Frederick County Courthouse

Liber #: 1030

Folio #: 331

STREET &amp; NUMBER

North Court Street

CITY, TOWN

Frederick

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

## 7 DESCRIPTION

F-3-11

### CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT  
☒ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED  
☐ ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Harry Routzahn House is a rectangular shaped two and a half story brick residence which faces east from the west side of Gas House Pike.

The principal facade is five bays wide. A wooden panelled door with recessed doorway is located in the third bay. The door is topped by a four light transom. On either side of the doorway are found original gas coach lamps now wired for use of electricity.

Occupying the remaining bays are four over four windows, replacements of the original six over six windows. Original wooden louvered shutters frame the windows. The same four over four windows are found on the second floor as well. Flat arches top the windows and door on the principal facade.

A one bay entrance porch is located on the principal facade. The porch features a plain boxed cornice and is supported by plain wooden columns. The porch is covered by a standing seam tin roof.

The entire structure is laid in common bond brick with a row of headers every ten rows of brick on the facade and north and south sides. The west side of the house is constructed of common bond with a row of headers every eight rows of brick. The structure is constructed on a coursed, quarried stone foundation. The structure is covered by asphalt shingles, a replacement of the original roof materials.

Supporting the roof on the facade is a stepped brick cornice. A wooden boxed cornice is found on both the north and south sides of the structure.

Two massive brick exterior chimneys are found, one on the north and one on the south side of the structure. The chimneys are double interior chimneys that reach from basement to attic, opening fireplaces in every room. The chimneys rise from a massive arch in the basement that supports the double chimney structure.

Found in the rear of the house is an original outbuilding covered with novelty siding. The function of the building was as a combination meathouse and smokehouse. A brick courtyard is found on the north side of the structure, leading to an original barn with stone foundation.

The Harry Routzahn House and outbuildings form a stately approach to the historic structures along the Gas House Pike. The house is approached down an avenue lined with fir and lime trees giving an excellent view of the principal facade of the structure.

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CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Harry Routzahn House, a brick residence, was built between 1800 and 1834 by Captain John Brengle, a large landowner in the countryside surrounding Frederick City. Captain Brengle distinguished himself as an officer in the War of 1812. According to various Frederick county histories, Captain Brengle was commander of a full company which was recruited by him from the Frederick area in a single day, August 25, 1814.<sup>1</sup>

The property with dwellinghouse, kitchen, barn, and other outbuildings remained in the Brengle family until 1875 when it passed to Alphonse Silvain Antoine Prieur, a native of France.<sup>2</sup> Mr. Prieur brought wine growing techniques from his native France and grew grapes for his own personal cellar in the garden behind the house. Cast iron rings remain in the steps leading to the cellar. Here, large wine vats were lowered to the brick basement below the structure.

In addition to its rich historical background, the house is significant for a number of reasons relating to its architectural foundations. The cellar of the structure is laid off in the same floor plan that continues in the next two floors. The partitions in the house are made of brick from basement to roof. A well is found in the cellar tunnelled below the house to make the water readily available to the household staff, an early attempt at indoor plumbing.

The house and grounds as they stand today are relatively unchanged from the days of the early owners. The home is a significant example of early nineteenth century architecture in the Frederick area.

<sup>1</sup>T. J. C. Williams, History of Frederick County Maryland, (1910; rpt. Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1967), I, p. 167.

<sup>2</sup>Frederick County Land Records, Liber TG 3; Folio 509. Frederick County Courthouse, Frederick, Maryland.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Williams, T. J. C., History of Frederick County Maryland, (1910; rpt.  
Baltimore: Regional Publishing Company, 1967), I. p. 167.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 60 acres (approximately)

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

clh

NAME / TITLE

Deborah Sheetenhelm, Intern

ORGANIZATION

Frederick County Office of Historic Preservation

DATE

7/16/79

STREET & NUMBER

12 East Church St., Winchester Hall

TELEPHONE

694-1063

CITY OR TOWN

Frederick

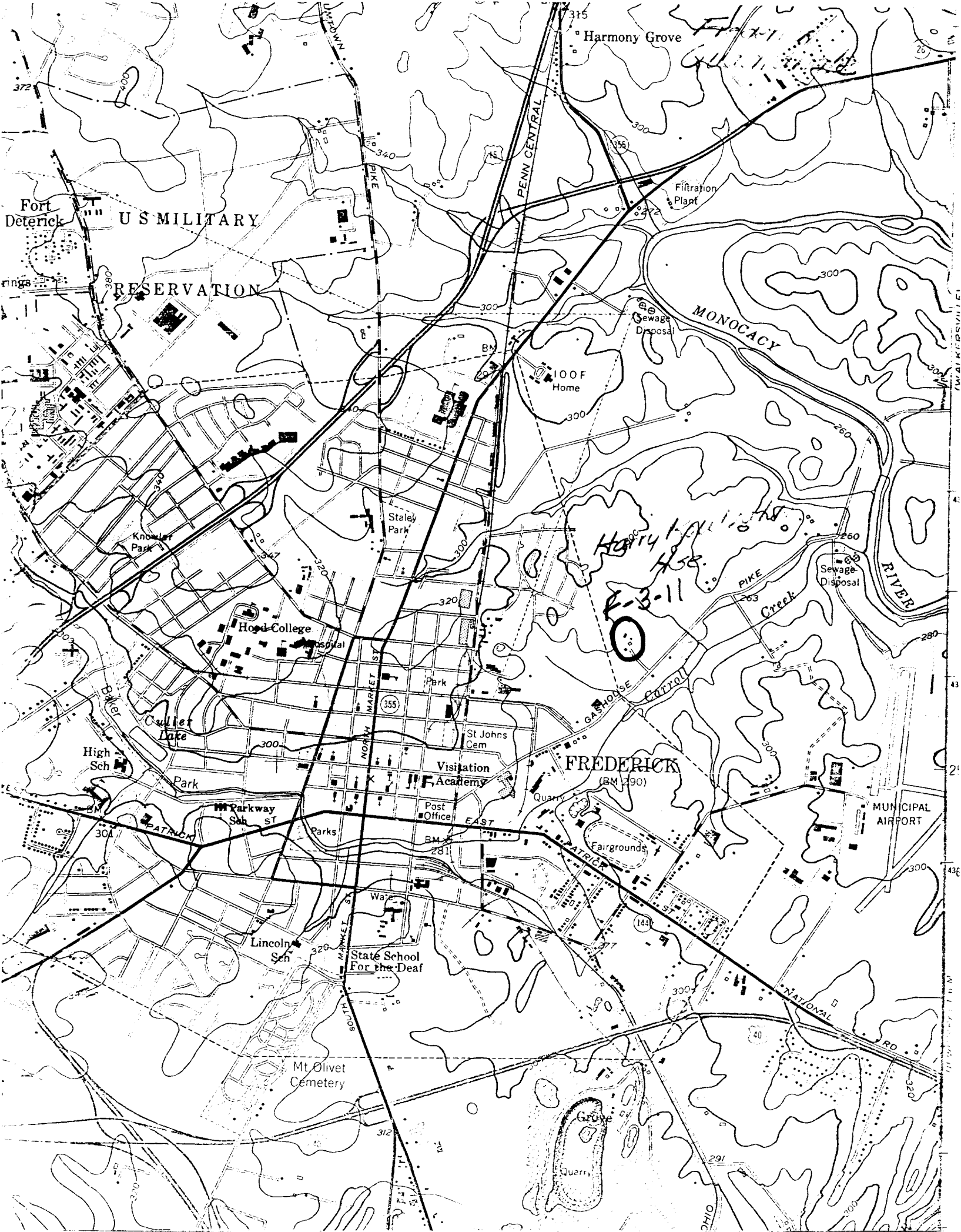
STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438





F-3-11

Hony Rutzbach Hse.

w/5 L. Home Pike

Fredrick, MD

East elevation

DES 6/13/79





F-3-11

Harry Rottgabel Hb.

w/3 Gas House Pike

Fredrick, MD

east elevation <sup>detail</sup>

DES 6/13/79



F-3-11

Harry Rontzke He.  
w/3 Dao Hase Pute

Judex dt, MD

Smokehouse -  
north elevation  
DES 6/13/79